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Docket No. 1232-4720**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application. Please amend claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 12-19, 23, 24, 28 and 29 as shown below.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A video conference and video telephone system which includes transmission and reception apparatuses for performing communication of two audio signals of L and R channels, wherein

said transmission apparatus comprises

transmission means for transmitting data obtained by addition of the two audio signals as first audio data through a first communication channel, and transmitting data obtained by subtraction of the two audio signals as second audio data through a second communication channel, and

said reception apparatus comprises

reception means for receiving the data obtained by the addition of the two audio signals as the first audio data and the data obtained by the subtraction of the two audio signals as the second audio data, and restoring means for restoring the audio signal by performing an arithmetic operation on the basis of the audio data received by said reception means,

wherein said transmission means of said transmission apparatus sets the number of channels to be used for the transmission, according to the kind of audio source of said transmission apparatus, and transmits the set number of audio channels to said reception apparatus.

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2. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein

the first audio data represents monaural audio and the second audio data represents stereo audio,

said transmission means of said transmission apparatus transmits, according to whether an audio source of said transmission apparatus is the stereo audio or the monaural audio, a change of the audio source to said reception apparatus, and

said restoring means of said reception apparatus restores the audio signal on the basis of the first audio data obtained by the addition of the two audio signals and the second audio data obtained by the subtraction of the two audio signals when the audio source of said transmission apparatus is the stereo audio, and restores the audio signal on the basis of only the first audio data obtained by the addition of the two audio signals when the audio source of said transmission apparatus is the monaural audio.

3. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said transmission means of said transmission apparatus transmits the number of audio channels of said transmission apparatus to said reception apparatus, as describing it at a source description of an RTCP (real time control protocol) packet.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said transmission means of said transmission apparatus transmits a type of audio input device of said transmission apparatus to said reception apparatus, as describing it at a source description of an RTCP packet.

5. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein each of said transmission apparatus and said reception apparatus has notification means for notifying its own capability by using a mode request message according to H.245 Standard of ITU-T (International Telecommunication Union Telecommunication Standardization Sector) Recommendation.

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6. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein

said transmission means of said transmission apparatus adjusts the number of channels to be used for the transmission, according to the kind of audio source of said transmission apparatus, and

said reception means of said reception apparatus adjusts the number of channels to be used for the reception, according to the number of channels to be used for the transmission.

7. (Currently Amended) A transmission apparatus comprising:

first generation means for generating packet data obtained by addition of two audio signals of L and R channels;

second generation means for generating packet data obtained by subtraction of the two audio signals; and

transmission means for transmitting the packet data generated by said first generation means through a first communication channel, and transmitting the packet data generated by said second generation means through a second communication channel,

wherein said transmission means of said transmission apparatus sets the number of channels to be used for the transmission, according to the kind of audio source of said transmission apparatus, and transmits the set number of audio channels.

8. (Currently Amended) A reception apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving packet data obtained by addition of two audio signals of L and R channels and/or packet data obtained by subtraction of the two audio signals; and

restoring means for restoring the audio signal by performing an arithmetic operation on the basis of the packet data received by said reception means,

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wherein said reception means sets the number of channels to be used for a communication, according to the kind of audio source of said communication.

9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said restoring means restores a stereo audio signal on the basis of the packet data obtained by the addition of the two audio signals and the packet data obtained by the subtraction of the two audio signals when stereo audio is restored, and restores a monaural audio signal on the basis of only the packet data obtained by the addition of the two audio signals when monaural audio is restored.

10. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

transmission means for transmitting packet data obtained by addition of two audio signals of L and R channels through a first communication channel, and transmitting packet data obtained by subtraction of the two audio signals through a second communication channel;

reception means for receiving the packet data obtained by the addition of the two audio signals of the L and R channels and/or the packet data obtained by the subtraction of the two audio signals; and

restoring means for restoring the audio signal by performing an arithmetic operation on the basis of the packet data received by said reception means,

wherein said transmission means of said communication apparatus sets the number of channels to be used for the transmission, according to the kind of audio source of said communication apparatus, and transmits the set number of audio channels to said reception means.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said restoring means restores a stereo audio signal on the basis of the packet data obtained by the addition of the two audio signals and the packet data obtained by the subtraction of the two audio signals when

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stereo audio is restored, and restores a monaural audio signal on the basis of only the packet data obtained by the addition of the two audio signals when monaural audio is restored.

12. (Currently Amended) A communication method comprising:

a first generation step of generating packet data obtained by addition of two audio signals of L and R channels;

a second generation step of generating packet data obtained by subtraction of the two audio signals; and

a transmission step of transmitting the packet data generated in said first generation step through a first communication channel, and transmitting the packet data generated in said second generation step through a second communication channel,

wherein said transmission step of said communication method sets the number of channels to be used for a transmission, according to the kind of audio source of said transmission, and transmits the set number of audio channels.

13. (Currently Amended) A communication method comprising:

(a) a step of receiving packet data obtained by addition of two audio signals of L and R channels and/or packet data obtained by subtraction of the two audio signals; and

(b) a step of restoring the audio signal by performing an arithmetic operation on the basis of the packet data received in said reception step (a),

wherein said step of receiving packet data includes setting the number of channels to be used for a communication, according to the kind of audio source of said communication.

14. (Currently Amended) A communication method comprising:

(a) a step of transmitting packet data obtained by addition of two audio signals of L and R channels through a first communication channel, and transmitting packet data obtained

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by subtraction of the two audio signals through a second communication channel;

(b) a step of receiving the packet data obtained by the addition of the two audio signals of the L and R channels and/or the packet data obtained by the subtraction of the two audio signals; and

(c) a step of restoring the audio signal by performing an arithmetic operation on the basis of the packet data received in said reception step (b),

wherein said step of transmitting sets the number of channels to be used for the transmission, according to the kind of audio source of said transmission, and transmits the set number of audio channels to be received in said step of receiving.

15. (Currently Amended) A recording medium which stores a program to cause a computer to execute following procedures:

the first generation procedure of generating packet data obtained by addition of two audio signals of L and R channels;

the second generation procedure of generating packet data obtained by subtraction of the two audio signals; and

the transmission procedure of transmitting the packet data generated in said first generation procedure through a first communication channel, and transmitting the packet data generated in said second generation procedure through a second communication channel,

wherein said transmission procedure sets the number of channels to be used for a transmission, according to the kind of audio source of said transmission, and transmits the set number of audio channels.

16. (Currently Amended) A recording medium which stores a program to cause a computer to execute following procedures:

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(a) the procedure of receiving packet data obtained by addition of two audio signals of L and R channels and/or packet data obtained by subtraction of the two audio signals; and

(b) the procedure of restoring the audio signal by performing an arithmetic operation on the basis of the packet data received in said reception procedure (a),

wherein said procedure of receiving packet data includes a procedure for setting the number of channels to be used for a communication, according to the kind of audio source of said communication.

17. (Currently Amended) A recording medium which stores a program to cause a computer to execute following procedures:

(a) the procedure of transmitting packet data obtained by addition of two audio signals of L and R channels through a first communication channel, and transmitting packet data obtained by subtraction of the two audio signals through a second communication channel;

(b) the procedure of receiving the packet data obtained by the addition of the two audio signals of the L and R channels and/or the packet data obtained by the subtraction of the two audio signals; and

(c) the procedure of restoring the audio signal by performing an arithmetic operation on the basis of the packet data received in said reception procedure (b),

wherein said procedure of transmitting sets the number of channels to be used for a transmission, according to the kind of audio source of said transmission, and transmits the set number of audio channels to be received in said procedure of receiving.

18. (Currently Amended) An image communication system which is composed of transmission and reception apparatuses performing communication of two audio signals of L

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and R channels, wherein

said transmission apparatus comprises

reception means for receiving, from an external apparatus, the two audio signals of the L and R channels and a monaural audio signal,

transmission means for transmitting data obtained by addition of the received two audio signals and monaural audio signal as first audio data through a first communication channel, and transmitting data obtained by subtraction of the two audio signals as second audio data through a second communication channel, and

said reception apparatus comprises

reception means for receiving the data obtained by the addition of the two audio signals and monaural audio signal as the first audio data and the data obtained by the subtraction of the two audio signals as the second audio data, and

restoring means for restoring a stereo audio signal on the basis of the first and second audio data received by said reception means,

wherein said transmission means of said transmission apparatus sets the number of channels to be used for the transmission, according to the kind of audio source of said transmission apparatus, and transmits the set number of audio channels to said reception apparatus.

19. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus which performs communication with plural external apparatuses, comprising:

reception means for receiving, from the external apparatus, two audio signals of L and R channels or a monaural audio signal;

generation means for generating first audio data by addition of the received two



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audio signals and monaural audio signal and second audio data by subtraction of the two audio signals; and

transmission means for transmitting the first and second audio data,

wherein said transmission means of said communication apparatus sets the number of channels to be used for the transmission, according to the kind of audio source of said transmission means, and transmits the set number of audio channels to said reception means.

20. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said transmission means transmits the first audio data through a first communication channel and the second audio data through a second communication channel.

21. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein  
when the external apparatus at a transmission destination of said transmission means corresponds to stereo audio, said transmission means transmits the first and second audio data to said transmission destination, and

when the external apparatus at the transmission destination of said transmission means corresponds to monaural audio, said transmission means transmits the first audio data to said transmission destination without transmitting the second audio data.

22. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising image data communication means for transmitting and receiving image data.

23. (Currently Amended) A communication method for an image communication system which is composed of transmission and reception apparatuses performing communication of two audio signals of L and R channels, wherein

in the transmission apparatus, said method comprises

a reception step of receiving, from an external apparatus, the two

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audio signals of the L and R channels and a monaural audio signal, and

a transmission step of transmitting data obtained by addition of the received two audio signals and monaural audio signal as first audio data through a first communication channel, and transmitting data obtained by subtraction of the two audio signals as second audio data through a second communication channel, and

in the reception apparatus, said method further comprises

a reception step of receiving the data obtained by the addition of the two audio signals and monaural audio signal as the first audio data and the data obtained by the subtraction of the two audio signals as the second audio data, and

a restoring step of restoring a stereo audio signal on the basis of the first and second audio data received in said reception step,

wherein said transmission step in said transmission apparatus sets the number of channels to be used for the transmission, according to the kind of audio source of said transmission apparatus, and transmits the set number of audio channels to said reception apparatus.

24. (Currently Amended) A communication method for a communication apparatus which performs communication with plural external apparatuses, comprising:

a reception step of receiving, from the external apparatus, two audio signals of L and R channels or a monaural audio signal;

a generation step of generating first audio data by addition of the received two audio signals and monaural audio signal and second audio data by subtraction of the two audio signals; and

a transmission step of transmitting the first and second audio data,

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wherein said transmission step sets the number of channels to be used for the transmission, according to the kind of audio source of said transmission, and transmits the set number of audio channels to be received in said reception step.

25. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein said transmission step transmits the first audio data through a first communication channel and the second audio data through a second communication channel.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein  
when the external apparatus at a transmission destination in said transmission step corresponds to stereo audio, said transmission step transmits the first and second audio data to said transmission destination, and

when the external apparatus at the transmission destination in said transmission step corresponds to monaural audio, said transmission step transmits the first audio data to said transmission destination without transmitting the second audio data.

27. (Original) A method according to claim 24, further comprising an image data communication step of transmitting and receiving image data.

28. (Currently Amended) A program which causes a computer to achieve a communication method comprising:

a first generation step of generating packet data obtained by addition of two audio signals of L and R channels;

a second generation step of generating packet data obtained by subtraction of the two audio signals; and

a transmission step of transmitting the packet data generated in said first generation step through a first communication channel, and transmitting the packet data

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generated in said second generation step through a second communication channel,

wherein said transmission step sets the number of channels to be used for a transmission, according to the kind of audio source of said transmission, and transmits the set number of audio channels.

29. (Currently Amended) A program which causes a computer to achieve a communication method for an image communication system which is composed of transmission and reception apparatuses performing communication of two audio signals of L and R channels, wherein

in the transmission apparatus, said method comprises

a reception step of receiving, from an external apparatus, the two audio signals of the L and R channels and a monaural audio signal, and

a transmission step of transmitting data obtained by addition of the received two audio signals and monaural audio signal as first audio data through a first communication channel, and transmitting data obtained by subtraction of the two audio signals as second audio data through a second communication channel, and

in the reception apparatus, said method further comprises

a reception step of receiving the data obtained by the addition of the two audio signals and monaural audio signal as the first audio data and the data obtained by the subtraction of the two audio signals as the second audio data, and

a restoring step of restoring a stereo audio signal on the basis of the first and second audio data received in said reception step,

wherein said transmission step in said transmission apparatus sets the number of channels to be used for the transmission, according to the kind of audio source of said

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transmission apparatus, and transmits the set number of audio channels to said reception apparatus.

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